4/7/71

Congressman Hale Boggs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Boggs,

Although you have not had a chance to indicte whether my earlier letter relating to your comments on the FBI are of interest to you, I write again because of the counterattack against you.

First let me say that rather than a shifting of ground, as this morning's Washington Post calls it, your statement of the chilling effect of fear is the essence. While the certainty that I am the object of such improper attentions (the character of which leaves little doubt it is of federal origin, and in some cases I have documentary proof) does not instill fear in me, it does, rather seriously, inhibit some of my sources.

In the course of my extensive study, I have had occasion to become somewhat expert in federal, especially Department of Justice, semantics. Often from this I can spot their evasions. The form of their denial that you were the subject of FBI surveillance leads me to believe it is possible that while this was done for the FBI, it may not have involved those officially rated as FBI agents. I do not know what proofs you may have, so I bring this possibility to your attention.

Any number of former FBI personnel have gone into private business, but they still retain close connections with the Bureau and its personnel. Favors are exchanged. Once I was able to arrange for the tapping of FBI material for a friend, for use in an official proceeding, through a private investigator. It was of some value to my friend.

One of the largest of these private organizations is Wackenhut. I believe it is Miami based. It has an affiliate officed in your constituency, or at least in New Orleans, among other places, where it also operates in its own name. Wackenhut is so large it can afford the luxury of small-type listing under "Investigators" in the New Orleans phone book (1420 Jefferson Davis Parkway, 861-1436 as of my latest information). The affiliate is Southern Research. It is not listed under "Investigators" in the phone book, nor is there any address or phone listed for it in the white section. The white-section entry refers to Wackenhut only. I am familiar with the work of Southern Research, and it includes surveillance. It could have been done in New Orleans as elsewhere by them but for the FBI. This is likely true in the Washington area, where I know that Wackenhut does operate, including in defense plants. They are at 6400 Georgia Avenue and elsewhere. If this may be the largest, I would not suggest it is the only such organization of former FBI agents in a position to render such professional services. I understand local police also sometimes serve the same function, render the same services. Thus, the FBI, per se, need not figure in such activities. And if you will go over the various official statements, as I have, including this morning's

by Mr. Kleindienst, at no point is there denial of surveillance of any kind of you or even of FBI knolwedge of it. Read carefully, all that has been claimed is either that no FBI agent did it or that no FBI agent was authorized to do it. There thus may be point in the foregoing.

When, as he did this morning, Mr. Kleindienst talks of "crimes" and "irresponsibility" by Congressman, the second addressed specifically to you, it is like a whore talking of love. His own written record with me is a model of irresponsibility and of contempt for the law. And it radiates downward from him and under him. Sufficient to make this point is recorded in my Civil Action No. 718-70, in federal district court in Washington. It is here that after getting a summary judgement against Justice, I also charged one of their lawyers with perjury. Neither Mitchell nor Kleindienst nor the lawyer have made even pro forma denial, and I did challenge it. More is recorded in correspondence not in the court record. It is an exceptional record for those charging you with "irresponsibility". Not one letter to me or my lawyer, not on document filed in court, was truthful. The biggest lie of all was written and reiterated when we tried to give him a chance to retract it by Kleindienst himself. Themssence of this is set forth in my new book on the Martin Luther King assassination, FRAME-UP, in the final chapter. The appendix includes facsimile reproduction of FBI affidavits that are at best deceptive. All of the originals of this extensive correspondence are in the hands of my publishers, who are making copies of it. I have copies of most in my possession. Another Member has asked for copies for another purpose. If you should like them, we can make them available to you for copying, as soon as they reach Washington.

In closing. let me refer again to what the FBI withheld from the Warren Commission and more relating to New Orleans only. They investigated Oswald before the assassination. The agent in charge of this is well-known and by those I know who know him, well thought of. He is Warren deBrueys. He filed an extensive, if still incomplete report of which I have a copy that was not given the Commission by the FBI. The obvious purpose served by withholding this from you was to deny you knowledge of the specifics of the investigation of Oswald prior to the assassination. There also was a New Orleans Police Intelligence Unit file, pre-assassination, on both Oswald and the late David Ferrie, neither given to you by the FBI. In fact, where a fingerprint other than Oswald's was found on a leaflet of his distributed in New Orleans in June, the FBI also failed to give you this identification. I have copies of all these FBI reports and the sources of proof of the existence of what was withheld from you by the FBI. You are welcome to examine them and to have copies made. They do not always deal, even with officials, as your own high endorsement of Mr. Hoover indicates you believe. In this connection, you might care to have one of your staff review Mr. Hoover's testimony (5H98-9), where he told you under oath. In it he said of every request by the Commission and everything sent to it, "I myself go over these to see that we haven't missed anything..." Whatever his intent, his record is the opposite. And, as I earlier suggested, you are the victim. Except, perhaps, as my work may correct the record. And so that you may, if you care, understand my own beliefs about the members of the Commission, someone might read for you in my first book, WHITEWASH, of which I sent you a copy in May, 1966, pp. xv-xvii, the first thing I wrote on this subject.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg